

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 1 and 5, and cancel claims 3 and 7 as set forth in the listing of claims that follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A catalytic converter substrate comprising:  
a substrate having perimeter cells defined by thin perimeter walls and interior cells defined by thin interior walls; and  
a catalyst washcoat disposed on said substrate, wherein the thickness of the catalyst washcoat is greater on said thin perimeter walls than on said thin interior walls  
wherein said washcoat disposed on said perimeter walls has a thickness of about 0.043 millimeters to about 0.153 millimeters and said washcoat disposed on said interior walls has a thickness of about 0.014 millimeters to about 0.051 millimeters.
2. (Previously presented) The catalytic converter substrate of claim 1, wherein said washcoat is disposed on said substrate so as to maximize substrate strength in the area of said perimeter walls.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Original) The catalytic converter of claim 1, wherein said thin perimeter walls and said thin interior walls comprise a wall thickness of about 0.109 millimeters to less than about 0.064 millimeters.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a catalytic converter substrate comprising:

preparing a substrate having perimeter cells defined by thin perimeter walls and interior cells defined by thin interior walls; and

applying a catalyst washcoat on the thin perimeter walls and the thin interior walls such that the thickness of the catalyst washcoat is greater on said thin perimeter walls than on said thin interior walls, said washcoat being applied on said perimeter walls at a thickness of 0.043 millimeters to about 0.153 millimeters; and on said interior walls at a thickness of about 0.014 millimeters to about 0.051 millimeters .

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, comprising:

applying said washcoat so as to maximize substrate strength in the area of said perimeter walls.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said thin perimeter walls and said thin interior walls comprise a wall thickness of about 0.109 millimeters to less than about 0.064 millimeters.

9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said selectively disposing comprises employing vitreous coating processes, masking, or a combination thereof.